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Where the life of a Roman citizen was not at stake, the elaborate system of the Romans for the conduct of trials was not always followed, and in the more tumultuous provinces, like Judea, the governor was left largely to his own discretion. We can hardly say, therefore, that it was illegal for Pilate to order Jesus to be crucified.

W. W. B.

THE JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY. By Thomas D. Eliot. The Macmillan Co., 66 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 1914. pp. xv, 234. \$1.25 net.

This volume shows, on the part of the author, a careful and intelligent study of Juvenile Court conditions throughout the United States. In fact that part of the book which deals definitely with conditions as they exist in the different localities is particularly instructive to one desirous of gaining some knowledge of the position of the Juvenile Court in the different cities of this country.

The author, however, intends the book as somewhat more than a survey. In it he puts forward his definite conception of the relation to the community of the Juvenile Court and the work that it is now doing. It is his thesis that the Juvenile Court while it has done a very important work should hold as an ideal its own self-effacement. The process to this end is indicated clearly and in such a fashion as not to necessitate special knowledge. The argument runs somewhat as follows. There is prevalent at present a somewhat general criticism of the Juvenile Court both from within and without. This is caused by the fact that the eventual structure will be something different and more thorough-going than the Juvenile Court. For the problem of the abnormal child is ultimately not a judicial problem. It is rather an educational one. By educational the author intends to include the work of the probation officer, the parental and correction schools, the playgrounds, the diagnosing and prognosing clinic, the employment bureau, as well as the usual educational instrumentalities. Though some of these instrumentalities are not in their normal use strictly educational, still in the author's opinion they should be allied to and used as a part of it when effort is being made to bring a child into a normal relationship with the community. He considers the work of the probation officer chiefly that of establishing "constructive friendship" which is really an educational work. Also he considers as particularly an educational work that of the friendly visitor. He admits freely that the Juvenile Court must continue in existence for a number of years and must occasionally do those odd jobs which are not really judicial whenever there is no other efficient agency to take care of the work. However,

it is his contention that whenever a child comes to the Juvenile Court it is only because some social agency has failed in its work of keeping the child up to the normal and the Juvenile Court is called upon as first aid.

He contends that the Juvenile Court should bend its energies towards obtaining greater efficiency from social agencies when they exist and to demonstrating the need for them where they are lacking. As much work as possible should be done by the social agencies and as little by the court. The court should be the place to come for final decisions as to plans and authority. But having decided, the administration should be with the schools and social agencies. For the essential business of a court is "to adjudicate disputed rights". Also the exercise of too many functions detracts from efficiency.

Incidentally the author expresses his opinion that the work of volunteers, though sometimes indispensable, is not very successful and should always be under the control of paid officers; that the police department in general is too active in making needless arrests; that the training, practice and work of the policeman rather tends to unfit him for the work of a probation officer; that the probation officer is a "social surgeon" and should be the "focal" or vital part of the child caring system and must focus all social forces of the neighborhood on his cases. The court also is to assist in bringing about this increased effort of the neighborhood.

That the class of children whose only fault is destitution, should in the author's opinion be taken entirely out of the Court's jurisdiction unless a question of authority or custody should arise. It is only the exceptional case that should ever come before the court for commitment. Neither should children be brought before the court where the parents are willing voluntarily to accept assistance and direction. The court should only step in to enforce "modalization" where its authority becomes necessary. To this extent the court is a necessary background to the Child Caring System. But the court should be a Court of Domestic Relations and not a Juvenile Court. The parent, as the best point of contact to exert social pressure, should be held accountable and not the child. Further the child cannot obtain adequate help unless control is had of the family. For in any social work the family is the unit of treatment and so we are having the gradual extension of the school system to the family as a whole.

In conclusion the author prophesies the gradual breaking up of the Juvenile Court as its work is from time to time taken over by the school and the Court of Domestic Relations.

C. DeY. E.